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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4012**

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**State of Washington**

**54th Legislature**

**1995 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Energy & Utilities (originally sponsored by Representatives Stevens, Cairnes, Elliot, Thompson, Koster, Sheahan, D. Schmidt, Delvin, McMorris, Robertson and Mielke)

Read first time 03/01/95.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BILL CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND  
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The COSPAS (Cosmicheskaya Sistyema Poiska Avariynych  
9 Sudov) space system for search of distressed vessels and SARSAT (Search  
10 and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking) Satellite System were implemented  
11 in 1982 through the joint efforts of the United States, Canada, France  
12 (SARSAT), and the former Soviet Union (COSPAS); and

13 WHEREAS, This satellite system was conceived in a humanitarian  
14 fashion to provide improved safety in remote areas using satellite  
15 technology to aid detection and location in distress situations; and

16 WHEREAS, The COSPAS-SARSAT system in concept could provide the same  
17 protection to those who travel by land as for those who travel by sea  
18 and air; and

19 WHEREAS, The SARSAT program is managed in the United States by the  
20 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, SARSAT operations  
21 division; and

1       WHEREAS, The use in the United States of distress beacons operating  
2 in the international COSPAS-SARSAT satellite system is currently  
3 restricted by federal regulation to marine (Emergency Position  
4 Indicating Radio Beacons) and aviation (Emergency Locator Transmitter)  
5 applications; and

6       WHEREAS, The use of Personal Locator Beacons has been permitted in  
7 Canada since July 1990; and

8       WHEREAS, The value of the devices for the land mobile user  
9 (Personal Locator Beacons) to safeguard lone workers, travelers, and  
10 recreationalists in the United States is currently being tested; and

11       WHEREAS, An experimental Personal Locator Beacon program has been  
12 ongoing in the North Slope Borough, Alaska, since March 1992; and

13       WHEREAS, The Personal Locator Beacon program in Alaska was expanded  
14 in 1994 to a state-wide controlled program; and

15       WHEREAS, Similar controlled programs have been authorized for the  
16 Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the United States Department of  
17 Interior (Fish and Wildlife Service), the United States Coast Guard,  
18 the Naval Support Forces Antarctica, and the National Science  
19 Foundation; and

20       WHEREAS, Search and Rescue Organizations would be aided in their  
21 efforts if such programs were authorized;

22       NOW, THEREFORE, Your memorialists respectively submit that:

23       (1) The use of Personal Locator Beacons be permitted in the State  
24 of Washington as well as the remaining states of these United States;

25       (2) The Federal Communications Commission process rules regarding  
26 the use of 406 MHz Personal Locator Beacons to include measures to  
27 mitigate operational and fiscal impacts on search and rescue  
28 organizations;

29       (3) The necessary standards for approval of Personal Locator  
30 Beacons through Equipment Authorizations as granted by the Federal  
31 Communications Commission be issued with technical standards similar to  
32 those currently in place for aircraft and vessels;

33       (4) The approval process for Personal Locator Beacons be published  
34 and that the approval agency be so named;

35       (5) The process to insure mandatory registration of Personal  
36 Locator Beacons with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
37 Administration, and the National Environmental Satellite, Data,  
38 Information Service be formalized; and

1       (6) The necessary state Search and Rescue Points of Contact be  
2 established within each state to allow the distribution of alert data  
3 to the state agency responsible for land search and rescue.

4       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
5 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United  
6 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
7 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
8 Washington.

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